

MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE

Jury in the Botkin Case Has Agreed Upon Its Verdict.

WOMAN WEEPS BITTERLY

During the Reading of the Judge's Charge the Prisoner Has a Fit of Tears and Is with Difficulty Restrained—Final Incidents of One of the Most Sensational and Dramatic Murder Trials of Modern Times.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—The jury in the Botkin case has returned a verdict of murder in the first degree, with penalty fixed at life imprisonment.

The accused, Mrs. Corrella Botkin, charged with the murder of Mrs. John P. Dunning, of Dover, Del., was placed in the hands of the jury late this afternoon. District Attorney Hosmer made his argument and Judge Carroll took his charge to the jury.

CONDEMNED THE DEFENSE. Mr. Hosmer commenced his argument with the incidents attending the arrival of the package of candy at the Dover, Del., postoffice. He condemned the defense for insinuating that the package might have been placed in the mail bag by any one connected with the postoffice. He accused the attorneys of going behind the facts. He traced the package to the Pennington house and its delivery to the unsuspecting Mrs. Dunning and the passing of the contents to other guests, their sickness and the death of Mrs. Dunning and her sister.

Mr. Hosmer pictured the grief of the parents and friends of the Pennington and Dunning families, and the attack upon a scolding attack upon the prisoner. He took up the analysis of the candy by Chemist Wolf, of Dover, Del., and Professor Price, of this city. He ridiculed the defense for its contention that members of the police department in this city even the chemists themselves might have inserted the poison to make out a case. He pointed out that Chemist Wolf had found lump arsenic and that Dr. Price had discovered the presence of powdered arsenic. The defense in argument asserted that only lump arsenic had been found.

TRUTHFUL WITNESSES. Mr. Hosmer addressed the jury on the rights of witnesses. He contended that all witnesses were entitled to respect and credit until disproved, and that the testimony of the prosecution, he asserted, had been proved untruthful. The attorney for the defense attacked all the witnesses for the prosecution and introduced matters entirely irrelevant to the case in an attempt to browbeat them and belittle their testimony. He attacked Attorney Knight particularly and characterized his efforts to free his client as dishonest and despicable. He asserted that the attacks of the defense had ended in naught; that not one witness had been contradicted.

He then took up Mrs. Botkin's testimony. He showed that in spite of Mrs. Botkin's statements and the assertions of the defense to the contrary the woman had more than a passing regard for Dunning; that her life with him was licentious and depraved. He pointed out Dunning's action in coming across the continent to prosecute her and asserted that Dunning would not have gone through what he had unless he was certain of the guilt of Mrs. Botkin; that he would not have disclosed their relations and been exposed to the criticism of the newspapers and public without just reason.

THE ANONYMOUS LETTER. He took up the letter of June 17, 1897, which the defense claimed had been mailed in this city at the time Mrs. Botkin was residing in Enola. The letter asserted that Dunning was financially embarrassed and that the woman with whom Dunning was infatuated was a divorced woman. He proved by Mrs. Botkin's own testimony that she and Dunning alone knew of his financial condition and showed by the testimony of Dunning that Mrs. Botkin told him on his return from Salt Lake that she had secured a divorce from her husband during his (Dunning's) absence.

He argued that the letter in dispute could have been sent from Enola to San Francisco on the steamer Paragon and mailed here on the arrival of the vessel. He expounded this theory with such force and effect that Attorney Knight entered a vigorous objection to Hosmer's argument. He was not sustained by the court, however, and Hosmer was permitted to continue on this line.

Mr. Hosmer argued on the authorship of the anonymous letters and the address on the box of candy. He went over the evidence of the expert's testimony and asserted that Mrs. Botkin was the writer of the letters and had written the address on the box of candy.

Mr. Hosmer continued his address by asking the jury to return a just verdict—a verdict of murder in the first degree.

THE JURY RETIRES.

CUBANS WILL BOW TO THE INEVITABLE

THE PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE ACCEPTS GEN. BROOKE'S ORDER.

General Ludlow's Letter Explaining Why No Demonstration Could Be Allowed When Spaniards Leave Havana—Assurances That the Better Element Will Restrain Itself—Ludlow's Letter.

Havana, Dec. 30.—The Cuban patriotic committee, consisting of 150 leading Cubans, lawyers, doctors and business men, at a meeting which lasted until four o'clock this morning decided to yield without reservation to the wishes of General Brooke and General Ludlow in the matter of postponing the six days' celebrations, and has approved a manifesto to the Cuban population of Havana, on the lines of General Ludlow's reply on the subject of the proposed celebrations, quoting some portions of it and paraphrasing others.

The Cuban citizens in Havana and the Cuban soldiers outside the city, are intensely excited, but the patriotic committee and the military chiefs of the Cubans think they can quiet this feeling and prevent violent incidents.

ELKIN IN CHARGE OF QUAY'S FIGHT

Speakership Matter Nearing a Decision—Democratic Editors Want the Democratic Members to Support Wanamaker.

Harrisburg, Dec. 30.—John P. Elkin, chairman of the state Republican committee, reached Harrisburg this evening to take charge of Senator Quay's campaign for re-election to the United States senate. The senator will be here himself on Sunday and will remain until after the senatorial caucus next Tuesday evening. His friends have opened headquarters at the Lochiel hotel in charge of Senator Mitchell, of Johnston.

Representatives Farr, of Scranton, and Bliss, of Delaware, rival candidates for speaker of the house of representatives, are also on the ground, looking after their campaign. The Republican house caucus will be held Monday evening, and the speaker will be appointed a state committee to select the officers and employes of the house. The Republican senators will also caucus on Monday to hear the report of the state committee appointed at the meeting of the last session, to appoint the officers of the senate.

A caucus of the Democratic senators and members will also be held Monday to consider, among other things, the movement to fuse with the independent Republicans on the organization of the senate.

DEMOCRATS FOR WANAMAKER.

Harrisburg, Dec. 30.—A secret meeting of the executive committee of the Democratic State association was held tonight at the Commonwealth hotel. President Jere Zeamer, of Carlisle, stated at the close of the conference that each of the editors present favored fusion of the speakership and if a Democrat can be elected senator it was the unanimous expression of the Democratic legislators should make every proper effort to unite with the independent Republicans on John Wanamaker. A meeting of the association has been called in this city for Tuesday, Jan. 17.

SENATOR MAGEE TALKS.

Pittsburg, Dec. 30.—Senator C. L. Magee returned from the east this morning. When asked if the reports sent out from Philadelphia to the effect that he had declined the speakership were true, he said: "I can not see the Republican caucus nominee elected speaker of the house of representatives if the Democratic legislators should make every proper effort to unite with the independent Republicans on John Wanamaker. A meeting of the association has been called in this city for Tuesday, Jan. 17."

MR. PALMA'S VIEWS.

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ANOTHER PAPER TRUST.

Scheme to Consolidate All Paper-making Interests. Providence, R. I., Dec. 30.—Dean and Shibley, brokers and bankers, of this city, have taken charge of arrangements for consolidating the paper manufacturers of this country. The deal will involve about \$40,000,000 and will include the mills making writing paper, bond paper, wrapping paper, envelope and newspaper.

Wants a Regiment Moved.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Senator Charles H. McNary, of Indiana, today urged that the Ninth Regiment of infantry be shifted from their present camp outside of Santiago. It is said that they are in a swampy locality which induced disease and that many deaths have resulted. Major Harrison, of the regiment, was with the senator to point out the desirability of a change.

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PLANNING HOW BEST TO GOVERN CUBA

HELP TO BE GIVEN TO GOVERNOR GENERAL BROOKE.

The Task Is Too Complicated for One Military Officer with a Small Staff to Handle Satisfactorily—He Will Have the Assistance of Well Known Experts.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The cabinet meeting today was not concluded until nearly 2 o'clock, the entire session being consumed in discussing matters in connection with the administration of law in Cuba. It was pointed out that the collection of the taxes and customs dues, the administration of laws relating to postal matters, and the courts and many other important branches of the government of the island would be a burden to heavy to be borne by the military governor, assisted by only a small staff, all more or less inexperienced in such matters. Practically a new government had to be established and it was agreed that the multitudinous affairs incident to such an undertaking could be successfully administered only by the creation of several bureaus at the head of which were to be placed men of wide experience in the particular work to which they would be assigned, all to be under the general direction of the military governor.

SOLID FOR FARR.

All But Seven of the Philadelphia Delegation Declare for the Man from Lackawanna.

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ENMESHED IN QUICKSAND.

Very Narrow Escape of Seven Miners at Wanamie.

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Wilkes-Barre, Dec. 30.—Seven men and two mules were caught in a stream of quicksand which burst into a gully on No. 18 shaft of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal company, at Wanamie, at noon today. The mules were smothered, but the men escaped unhurt, although three of them were imprisoned for over five hours.

PROMINENT TRUST COMPANY IS CHARGED WITH COSTLY NEGLIGENCE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—A suit was commenced in the United States Circuit court today by counsel for Carroll Spring, of New York, assignee of Adairson B. and Edward Rice, trading as Rice Bros., against the Commonwealth Title Insurance and Trust company, of this city, to recover \$55,000 damages.

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THE MYSTERY SOLVED.

Detective McCluskey Says He Has the Man Under Surveillance. New York, Dec. 31.—The world says: Captain George McCluskey, chief of the detective bureau, firmly believes that he has solved the mystery surrounding the shooting of the Rev. Mr. Morrill, sending him poison through the mails. The name of the suspected murderer is withheld from publication lest its announcement should defeat the ends of justice. The man under surveillance was formerly a member of the Knickerbocker Athletic club.

Wholesale Vaccination Ordered.

Chambersburg, Pa., Dec. 30.—The health authorities of Waynesboro have ordered a wholesale vaccination of school children and citizens not previously vaccinated. The disease of small-pox is prevalent in Hagerstown, Md., necessitating a step. The doctors are now vaccinating a large number of people with virus.

Melba Scores a Triumph.

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—"La Boheme" was given its first production on a grand opera scale tonight by the Ely Opera company, which sailed yesterday for England. The success was unqualified. The largest audience of the season repeatedly showed its enthusiasm over the efforts of the artists. Melba was the "Mimi" and her acting surprised and delighted her friends.

Moore Has Resigned.

New York, Dec. 30.—Frederick P. Moore, vice president of the New York, Susquehanna and Western railroad, has resigned his position. Mr. Moore had charge of the company's coal business and assumed some of the work of President Hopkins after the retirement of the latter.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: Rain; Cold Wave.

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2 General—Annual Reports of State Financial and Commercial.
3 Local—Religious News of the Week, Social and Personal.
4 Editorial.
5 Local—The Bachelors' Ball.
6 Local—Year's Work of the District Attorney's Office.
7 Local—Watch Night in the Churches.
8 News Round About Scranton.
9 Story—"The Iconoclast."
10 Sunday School Lesson for Tomorrow, Brotherhood of the Black Hand.
11 General—News of the Soldiers at Camp MacKenzie.

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BEST TRADE YEAR KNOWN

Old 1898 Has Been One of Business Triumph.

FIGURES ARE PHENOMENAL

As a Result of the Wonderful Industrial and Commercial Developments of the Expiring Twelve-month the Center of Financial Power Has Crossed the Ocean and New York Now Dictates the World's Rate of Exchange—A Narrative to Make Americans Feel Proud.

New York, Dec. 30.—R. C. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade will tell in tomorrow's issue: The year 1898 has not only been one of victory, of important increase in territory and of incalculable expansion of the influence of the United States among other nations but has surpassed all other years in financial and industrial results. The center of financial power has crossed the ocean. After paying debts of several hundred millions abroad, and conducting a war to an honorable end, the country is lending so many millions in Europe that for the first time banks abroad look to New York to dictate the rate of exchange. Exports have been about \$1,250,000,000, against \$357,000,000 in 1897, and in only two previous years has the balance risen to \$300,000,000. In no past calendar year have net imports of gold reached \$75,000,000, this year they have been about \$140,000,000. November passed all previous months in value of produce exports over imports, but December has gone much beyond November.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

Power in the world's markets comes with a demand for breadstuffs and other necessities never before equalled. Exports of cotton have been over 7,000,000 bales, about 2,500,000,000 pounds, and in no previous year as much as seven million bales. Exports of wheat have been \$282,518,294 in eleven months, and have never been as large in any other year. Exports of wheat for the year, lacking a day or two, have been 218,294,536 bushels, four included, slightly exceeded only by 225,632,312 in 1897, and of corn 200,579,467 bushels, only approached in 1897, 189,127,570 in 1897. The heaviest exports of both grains and flour in any previous year were 59,000,000 bushels of wheat, only 50,229,517 in 1897. Though wheat was raised to \$1.91 in May, the highest quotation in 1898, the December average has been nearly 72.25 cents below that of last year, but the year's average, 93 cents, is the highest since 1881.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

The triumph in finance has been largely due to industrial progress. The output of pig iron has been about 11,645,000 tons, the greatest yet reached in any year by two million tons, and greater than Great Britain ever reached by 2,800,000 tons. Yet the consumption manufacture has been still larger. In spite of net exports of pig iron, in 1898, the total output of iron and steel was reduced in eleven months 200,000 tons. Exports of iron manufactures in ten months were about \$7,644,536 in value, against imports of \$13,497,817. Prices for the year have been unusually steady, varying not more than 5.10 cents, the lowest for 50 years, the greatest yield ever known being followed by receipts since September 357,000 bales larger than last year. Exports have increased, but not as greatly. Towards the close recovery came with accounts of some destruction by storms, and the price reached 5.37 cents, giving a strong impulse to the manufacture, so the takings by northern and southern spinners in the calendar year have been 2,425,296 bales, a little greater than in any previous year. Goods were reduced in price five per cent, in the middle of November, but have risen 7 per cent, and closed at the highest point for the year. In spite of enormous stocks held, wool was so lifted that buying of wool and of goods was checked early in the year, but slow declines began in February. Sales have been only 232,451,131 pounds of the three chief markets, so that the mills have probably used less than a full year's supply and the stock of goods was also excessive a year ago.

Death of Minister Romero.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Senator Don Matias Romero, the Mexican ambassador, is dead. He had been confined to his room at the legation since Saturday, suffering from appendicitis. Mr. Romero underwent a surgical operation on Wednesday which lasted one hour, notwithstanding which the patient came out of the ordeal in a condition that was encouraging to his physicians and friends. Soon after midnight, however, the patient began to sink rapidly and his death occurred at 4 o'clock this morning. Senator Romero was one of the most eminent statesmen and diplomats of Mexico.

Hunting Judge Reeder's Successor.

Harrisburg, Dec. 30.—Governor Hastings has tendered to Colonel Wilbur P. Reeder, of Bellefonte, deputy attorney general, the appointment of superior court judge to fill the vacancy created by the death of J. Howard Reeder, of Easton. Colonel Reeder prefers to resume his private practice when he retires, and deputy attorney general has declined.

Green Got the Decision.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—George Green and Dan Creelan fought twenty tame rounds here tonight. They started out at a good pace but after the seventh both did a lot of sparring and clinching and were repeatedly hit by the spectators. After that Green won a little but Creelan was weak. Green got the decision.

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